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Inside Wallops

NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe Visits Wallops



Photo by Jim Mason-Foley

NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe (right) listens intently as Bruce Underwood, Office of Policy and Business Relations (left) discusses Range Control Center Operations. Also shown (left to right) are Craig Purdy, Deputy Director of Suborbital and Special Orbital Projects; Glenn Mahone, Assistant Administrator for the Office of Public Affairs; Al Diaz, Director of the Goddard Space Flight Center; and Chris Christensen, Associate Deputy Administrator for Institutions.

NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe got his first look at Wallops on Tuesday, March 19.

Although there was not time for an "all hands" with him, O'Keefe was given a blue ribbon tour of the Island, Shuttle Small Payloads and Sounding Rocket Environmental Testing facilities in Building F-10 and the Range Control Center. In between stops, on the ride to and from the Island and during lunch, Wallops senior managers were able to

discuss all the Wallops programs and many of our hopes for the future.

Dr. John Campbell, Wallops Senior Manager, said it is reported that we were very effective in getting our message across on outreach and research activities and our partnerships.

We want to thank everyone who supported this visit. It takes a lot of effort from many people to conduct such an event on short notice.

A Message from Center Director Al Diaz

"When we reorganized the systems engineering, program formulation and instrument management functions last fall, we undertook a study of the remaining functions in the STAAC Directorate in order to determine their best placement within the Center. We are now ready to proceed with the second phase of reorganization that will place those remaining functions as follows:

- Level 2 Technology Management activities, including the Earth Science Technology Office and Advanced Technology Office, will be realigned to the Flight Programs and Projects Directorate (Code 400). An Associate Director of FPPD for Technology Management will be established and advertised to provide oversight to these efforts.
- Technology commercialization and Patent Counsel activities will be realigned into the Applied Engineering and Technology Directorate (AETD, Code 500). I have asked the AETD management to develop a plan for integrating technology commercialization more closely with technology development efforts already in place throughout AETD.
- The New Opportunities Office will be realigned into the Office of the Associate Director (Code 101) reporting to the Associate Director.
- The responsibility for remaining Space Operations Management Office (SOMO) functions will be realigned into Code 400 with the Mission Services Program office.

A formal, detailed reorganization plan will be finalized within the next several weeks to effect these changes. I would like to thank the employees who have remained in the STAAC Directorate for your patience and support during these past months while these arrangements have been worked out. I ask you, and all employees of the Center, to continue to work with the leadership of Codes 400, 500 and 101 to implement these changes as smoothly as possible.

Wallops Shorts.....

Sounding Rocket Launch

A NASA Improved-Orion sounding rocket was successfully launched from Poker Flat Research Range (PFRR), Alaska, on March 18. The primary objective of this Student Rocket Project (SRP-4) was to measure the plasma density structure in the high latitude D-region of the ionosphere above PFRR. The principal investigator was Dr. Joseph Hawkins, University of Alaska. The recovery system was built by students from the University of Alaska. Preliminary science results indicate the payload was on target and received good data. The parachute deployed early but functioned properly.



Photo provided by R. Rogers

Rich Rogers, NASA Aircraft Office, talks to students at Salisbury Christian School.

Space Station Crew Receives Supplies

Progress 7, an unpiloted Russian resupply craft, docked with the International Space Station on Sunday, March 24, delivering supplies, fuel and food to the Expedition Four crew living aboard the orbital outpost.

The spacecraft lifted off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on Thursday, March 21 and spent three days in orbit, finally catching up to the station 386 kilometers (240 statute miles) above central Asia at 2:58 p.m. CST (2058 GMT).

The Expedition Four crewmembers — Commander Yury Onufrienko and Flight Engineers Carl Walz and Dan Bursch — began unloading cargo from the Progress on Monday.

The crew begins this week to prepare for the arrival of Space Shuttle Atlantis, which is targeted to launch from Kennedy Space Center, Fla., on April 4. The STS-110 mission will deliver the S0 (S-Zero) Truss to the station.

Virginia Air National Guard May Become a Regular Sight at Wallops



PAO Digital Photo
One of two F-16 aircraft (above) from the Virginia Air National Guard 192nd Fighter Wing that landed at Wallops on March 21 waits for the fuel truck. Based in Richmond, Va., the 192nd Fighter Wing flies daily training and surveillance missions in the local area and will be stopping by Wallops on a regular basis for refueling. The Richmond unit is home for 18 of the F-16 aircraft.

Career Development Forum

The First Annual Career Development Forum will be held at NASA Wallops Flight Facility on March 28 in Building E-104. The purpose of this all day forum is to provide an opportunity for Goddard and Headquarters to showcase the various career development tools and resources that aid employees in managing and realizing their own individual career goals.

The forum begins at 8:45 a.m. with videotape opening remarks from NASA Administrator Sean O’Keefe and Center Director Al Diaz.

Activities include three workshops and two web demonstration sessions, a brown-bag lunch seminar and two story telling sessions.

During the story telling sessions, employees will speak about their successes and failures as they have risen up the career ladder. The Wallops story telling panel is as follows:

Panel I (10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.): John Hickman, Craig Purdy, Sandy Kleckner, Betty Flowers, Orlando Figueroa

Panel II (1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.): Bruce Underwood, John Gerlach, Tony Baldwin, Debbie Parks, Lisa Johnson, Caroline Massey, Jay Pittman

There also will be an information booth where attendees can obtain quick answers to career related questions. A Human Resource representative will staff an information booth to answer Wallops related questions.

Wallops employees are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this forum.

March is National Women’s History Month

In 1987, at the request of women’s organizations, museums, libraries, youth leaders, and educators throughout the country, the National Women’s History Project successfully petitioned Congress to expand the national celebrations to the entire month of March. A National Women’s History Month Resolution was quickly approved with strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate.

Since 1992, a Presidential Proclamation has carried the directive for what is now a major national and international celebration.

Pam McGarth was the guest speaker for a Colloquium held March 21. The Women of Wallops (WOW), Federal Women’s Program provided refreshments and door prizes.

For more information on the Women of Wallops and Women’s History Month visit: <http://www.wff.nasa.gov/~FWP/news/index.html>



Digital photo by Sandy Kleckner
Virginia Strand, (left), Computer Sciences Corporation, and Terry Ewell, NASA, Wallops Logistics Team, serve refreshments at the WOW Colloquium

Employee Coffee

Wallops employees are invited to an employee coffee with Wallops Senior Managers

April 2
8 to 9 a.m.
Bldg. E-2,
Cafeteria



Optical Van

The Chesapeake Optical Van will be visiting Wallops on Thursday, March 28, to dispense prescription safety eyeglasses. The van will be in the parking lot behind Building E-2, Cafeteria, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Interested parties need to obtain a “Request for Prescription Safety Eyeglass Form” from the Health Unit. The completed form and an up-to-date eyeglasses prescription are required for your order to be processed.

Call the Health Unit on x1266 with any questions.

Employees Lend Support to Cohort

A group of Wallops employees have joined together to walk miles and spend hours in support of a fellow employee and her battle with cancer.

Wallops employees Debbie Parks, Debbie Stanley, Annette Conger, Jeanette Smolinski, Sandy Kleckner, Linda Thompson, Kelly Littleton, Lisa Brittingham, Susannah Warner, and Pam Pittman joined together to form Pam’s Pals Relay for Life team.

Relay for Life is an American Cancer Society event designed to celebrate cancer survivorship. Pam’s Pals will participate in the event on May 31 in Pocomoke City, Md.

The overnight activity has teams of people taking turns walking or running laps. Each team tries to keep at least one team member on the track at all times. A talent show, auctions, contests, raffles, and refreshments are offered throughout the night to keep participants amused and awake.



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Editor

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